(b) if so, the details of such studies;

(c) whether Government have assessed the existing sports organisations and bureaucracy in India; and

(d) whether any positive changes are contemplated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Government has been assessing from time to time the working of various National Sports Organisations and have been issuing guidelines to them for the further development of sports in the country.

Proper Utilisation of Stadia

7481. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sports Authority of India has any long-term plans for use of Stadia and Sports facilities under its control;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Sports Authority of India is not able to enhance utilisation of Stadia and other facilities; and

(c) steps proposed to formulate plans for optimum utilisation of sports facilities under Sports Authority of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Sports Authority of India has already launched various schemes for optimum utilisation of Stadia and other sports facilities by organising Regular Coaching Scheme, Pay & Play Scheme, holding of training camps for Junior and Senior National Teams, organising of competitions at School, College, University, State and National Level and conducting of various refresher/diploma courses.

Deaths of Children due to Malnutrition

7482. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly five thousand children below the age of five die of malnutrition in India every day;

(b) whether it is a fact that nearly 63% of all children under five years of age are malnourished;

(c) if so, what are the causes thereof; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to redress the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SMT. BASAVARAJESWARI): (a) No, Sir. The latest figures available on Child Mortality Rate (CMR) (0—4 years) pertains to the year 1992, which puts CMR at 26.5 and the major causes of Child Mortality are malnutrition, vaccine preventable diseases, Diarrhoeal diseases, Acute Respiratory Infections and inadequate maternal and new born care.

(b) The National level estimates on levels of malnutrition among children are available only in the Repeat Surveys for the period 1988—90 carried out by National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau (NNMB), as per which only about 8.7% of children under five years of age are severely malnourished. In addition, 37.6% and 43.8% of the children, as per NNMB Surveys, suffer from mild and moderate degrees of malnutrition respectively.

(c) Inadequate dietary in-take, low purchasing power, high levels of illiteracy, diseases, lack of awareness on

appropriate feeding practices, inequalities in distribution of land and wealth, limited access to safe drinking water, health care and sanitation are some of the major causes responsible for widespread malnutrition.

(d) The adoption of National Nutrition Policy (1993) is a major step in the direction of reducing/eliminating malnutrition. The Policy (NNP), is a comprehensive document and contains a set of direct interventions in the short term and long term measures involving institutional and structural changes aimed at tackling the problem of malnutrition. With a view to effectively implement the Policy, a National Plan of Action on Nutrition has been formulated which incorporates sectoral plans for achieving the time-bound goals on nutrition. In addition, concerted efforts are being made by the Government for improving the nutritional and health status of infants and children through focussed nutritional and health interventions which chiefly include the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, Balwadi Nutrition Programme (BNP), Scheme of Creches/Day-Care Centres, Child Survival and Safe Motherhood (CSSM) Programme and other Maternal and Child Health Care (MCH) Programmes.

Ban on Beauty Contests

7483. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations from Women's organisations to put a ban on beauty contests and fashion shows throughout the country;

(b) if so, whether beauty contests and fashion shows are sexually exploiting women; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SMT. BASAVARAJESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government has received no such reports.

Literacy Rate in Gujarat

7484. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the literacy rate in Gujarat is low than the other states of the country at present;

(b) if so, the reasons, therefor;

(c) whether Government has not provided the sufficient funds for this purpose; and

(d) if so, what steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND THE DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KM. SELJA): (a) and (b) The literacy rate in Gujarat (61.29%) is well above the national average (52.11%). The literacy rate in Gujarat has increased from 30.45% in 1961 to 61.29% in 1991.

(c) and (d) Government is providing sufficient funds for Universalisation of Elementary Education, Non-Formal Education and Adult Education to achieve education for all. Total Literacy Campaigns have been sanctioned for all the 19 districts in the State. The outlay approved for Gujarat for the Eighth Plan is Rs. 162.90 crores and outlay for 1994-95 was Rs. 18.16 crores.